REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated November 17, 2000 having a short and statutory period set to expire February 17, 2001.

In that Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 7 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,416,901, issued to Torres. That rejection, insofar as it might be applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Torres teaches a method/system for execution of a predefined process within a data processing system by permitting an operator to select particular ones of a plurality of data fields of a particular icon type for utilization in particular direct icon manipulation operations. The system within Torres records the operator's selection and generates a visual representation which is indicative thereof which is subject to direct icon manipulation operations, which allows the visual representation to be used to perform direct icon manipulation operations to automatically include or exclude from the direct icon manipulation operation data from particular ones of the data fields.

In the manner described by Torres, drag-and-drop operations can be performed which deliver data from at least one particular data field to at least one particular drop field, but which do not deliver data from selected others of the plurality of data fields.

This is described within Torres at column 8, line 6 et seq., wherein graphical pointing device 60 is described as being utilized "to move selection icon 56 in an overlapping position with icon 62, and one or more of mouse buttons 24, 26 are depressed to initiate

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

the application of the selection icon to a particular iconographic representation of a software object."

Thus, as described above, those ordinarily skilled in the art would appreciate that Torres describes a situation in which an icon is created which, when graphically manipulated by the user utilizing a movable cursor, can be applied to other icons within the system.

In clear and direct contrast to the disclosure within Torres, the present invention is directed to a technique whereby a predefined process is "associated" with a movable cursor and then executed on an object "in response to a graphic selection of" that object by a user utilizing the movable cursor. While it may be true that selection of the selection icon of Torres and the subsequent dropping of that selection icon on a target icon may be construed as "selection" of the target icon in one sense, this is not "selection" as that term is ordinarily used in this art.
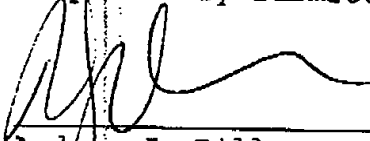
Nevertheless, in an effort to further clarify the present invention and distinguish the language within the present claims from Torres, Applicant submits herewith a proposed amendment to claims 1 and 7 which further characterizes the association of the defined process with the movable cursor in accordance with the present invention as occurring "in response to a first user input..." Thereafter, the claims have been amended to recite that the predefined process is executed "on any suitable object within said data processing system solely in response to graphic selection of a suitable object... until said association is disabled by a second user input." Support for this Amendment can be found in the present specification at page 15, line 3. Thus, as expressly set forth within the presently amended claims, the association of a

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

forth within the presently amended claims, the association of a predefined process with a movable cursor originates "in response to a first user input" and remains "until said association is disabled by a second user input" and during that period of time "any suitable object" within the data processing system will have that predefined process executed upon it "solely in response to a graphic selection" of the suitable object. Applicant urges that this Amendment is appropriate for entry following a final rejection in that this Amendment defines clearly patentable subject matter over the cited prior art, is fully supported by the specification, and Applicant earnestly request entry of this Amendment and passage of this application to issue.

Page 8 of 9

No fee is believed to be required; however, in the event any additional fees are required, please charge IBM Corporation Deposit Account No.09-0461.   No extension of time is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Dillon
Registration No. 29,634
BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, LLP
Suite 350, Lakewood on the Park
7600B North Capital of Texas Highway
Austin, Texas 78731
(512) 343-6116

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Page 9 of 9